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Champion
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Festival hits right note

Nursing home celebrates 25th anniversary

Irene celebrates 100th birthday with a cuppa!

Birthday girl Irene celebrates with daughters Irene and Janet and deputy mayor and mayoress Liz Savage and Lorraine Haslett. Code1083092

GREAT–grandmother Irene Dixon celebrated a very special birthday with her favourite tipple – a nice cup of tea!

Irene was joined by family, friends and a couple of extra visitors in the shape of the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancs, Councillor Liz Savage and Lorraine Haslett, for a 100th birthday tea party at the Aughton Park Home where she has lived for the last five years.

And she was deighted to receive a letter from the Queen congratulating her on her centenary milestone.

Irene, who was born in Liverpool, was one of seven children.

During the second world war she worked in an ammunition factory, marrying her late husband, George, in 1940 and the couple went on to have three children of their own.

HOSPITAL BOSSES ARE SUSPENDED

Senior managers face probe after complaints

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

FOUR senior management officials at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust have been suspended following three separate whistle–blowing allegations.

An external investigation held following complaints against a number of the trust's top bosses found enough evidence to suspend chief executive, Jonathan Parry, chief operating officer, Sheilah Finnegan, human resources director, Sharon Partington and deputy director of performance, Richard McCarthy, pending a subsequent internal investigation.

A spokesperson for the trust told the Champion: "Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust have excluded from work four members of staff, the chief executive, chief operating officer, human resources director and deputy director of performance.

"The exclusions follow an independent external investigation into three separate whistle–blowing complaints received by the trust.

"No aspect of the complaints or investigation is related to issues of patient care or safety."

Hospital trust chief executive Jonathan Parry

Although the exclusion is not considered a form of disciplinary action, the decision was unanimously taken by the chair of the trust board and the six non–executive directors.

And the trust say they want to reassure patients and their families that it has nothing to do with patients, families or public safety.

Sue Musson, chair of the trust, said: "In response to the three whistle–blowing complaints made to the trust and the subsequent independent external investigation by the good governance institute it has been necessary to exclude three senior executives and one other employee.

"I want to stress to our patients, their families and the public that no aspect of the complaints, the investigation that has taken place and the exclusion of the four employees are related to issues of patient care or patient safety. This action will not affect the healthcare services provided by the trust to our patients.

"An internal investigation will now begin in line with our disciplinary policy.

"With immediate effect Ann Marr, chief executive of St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospital NHS Trust, and Gaynor Hayles, associate director of nursing at the NHS Trust Development Authority, will be assisting the trust.

"Ann will be providing leadership within the trust in the accountable officer role on an interim basis. Gaynor will be supporting Ann in this role, overseeing a variety of functions including that of chief operating officer, again on an interim basis.

"Ann comes with a strong track record in running hospitals in the North West. We are pleased to be able to have someone of her calibre, as an experienced and long–standing chief executive, to support the other members of the executive management team in the day–to–day running of the trust.

"Sheila Samuels will work with the trust to provide interim director of human resources support in the short term whilst investigations are ongoing.

"Sheila is an experienced health and local government sector professional, this has included working as an executive director in the NHS covering governance and human resources.

"Whilst this is a serious employment issue for the trust, our priority is, and remains, providing quality healthcare in hospitals and the community to the 258,000 people across Southport, Formby and West Lancashire whom we serve."

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Chance to have your say on council's licensing policy

By Danielle Thompson

WEST Lancs Council is inviting local residents and businesses to comment on its draft licensing policy which will set out how the authority will continue to exercise its powers under the Gambling Act 2005.

The council is holding a public consultation running until Friday, October 16 to anble people to give their views on the draft document to ensure it reflects local opinions.

Changes have been made to the policy to reflect the changes in legislation relating to licensed gambling across the borough, including betting shops and bingo halls.

It can be found on the council's website under licensing.

Councillor Kevin Wright, the council's portfolio holder for health and community safety, said: "To ensure our licensing policy remains a practical working document it's essential that we get as much feedback from local people and business as possible.

Councillor Kevin Wright

"The draft document has considerable changes from the current policy which sets out how we exercise our powers in this area. We have placed more emphasis on the issues in the locality of licensed operations and how such businesses are expected to meet the requirements of the legislation.

"All the views we receive will be assessed by members and will help shape the final policy."

The council is also contacting the police, the Gambling Commission, representatives of the licensed trade and cultural organisations to get a wide range of views across the borough.

All comments received will be presented to the licensing and gambling committee and the full council for the members' consideration.

A limited number of hard copies of the policy are available on request.

You can submit your views online, via email at licensing.enquiries@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to West Lancashire Borough Council, Licensing Service, Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley Way, Skelmersdale WN8 8EE.

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Thomas's mini marathon nets £868 for sight loss charity

Thomas with his dad Alan and sister Sophie

A TEN–year–old boy from Bickerstaffe raised more than £850 by running his own sponsored half–marathon to raise money for a national sight–loss charity.

Thomas Ralfs, who is too young to enter an official half marathon, set himself his own 13mile challenge, which he ran with his dad, Alan, along the Rainford Bypass near to his home.

He wanted to raise funds for and awareness for a national charity.

Thomas, whose sister Sophie, eight, suffers from an eye condition, raised a grand total of £868 for the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Sophie has nystagmus a condition which causes continuous, uncontrolled to–and–fro movement of the eyes, meaning that she has reduced vision.

Thomas said: "I set this challenge because I wanted to test myself and decided to fundraise for the RNIB because they have helped many people with poor vision, including my sister.

"I'd like to say thanks to everyone who supported me.

"I actually ran 14.1 miles in total in 2 hours 24minutes overall and my half–marathon time for the first 13 miles was 2 hours 13 minutes."

ANYONE who would like to donate to Thomas's appeal can do so at www.justgiving.com/ChallengeThomas.

Duo jailed for 26 years for roles in drugs conspiracy

TWO men from West Lancashire have been jailed for a total of 26 years for their roles in a conspiracy to supply cocaine in the borough.

Gareth Mawdsley, 34, of Bleasdale Close, Aughton and James Moran, 33, of Banksbarn, Skelmersdale were sentenced to 16 and 10 years respectively at Liverpool Crown Court for conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and money laundering offences.

A third man, Gerrard Gandy, 34, of Orrell Road, Wigan, was sentenced to 14 years.

It follows the sentencing of John Green, 30, of Windrows, Skelmersdale who was jailed for six years in November for possession of cocaine with intent to supply.

The men were arrested following Operation Taurus, an investigation by Lancashire Constabulary's Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) which began in March 2014.

It was established that Gandy and Mawdsley were the leaders of the drugs gang, while Moran and Green were couriers of both drugs and cash.

Gareth Mawdsley

James Moran

The operation led to the recovery of 53kgs of cocaine, 150,000 ecstasy tablets and more than £250,000 in cash in total. The drugs had a street value of over £12 million.

As part of the investigation, officers made Lancashire Police's largest–ever cocaine seizure after they raided a caravan in St Helens, Merseyside and seized 35kgs of high purity cocaine and more than £200,000 in cash.

Officers worked with Hampshire Police investigating the supply of cocaine, particularly in Skelmersdale, Lancashire, Merseyside and Hampshire.

Gareth Mawdsley's partner, Kelly Carmichael, of Bleasdale Close, Aughton was also sentenced to eight months imprisonment suspended for two years, plus 240 hours unpaid work, for assisting an offender.

Graeme Hawkes, 29, of Carfield, Skelmersdale is due to be sentenced for the same offence at Liverpool Crown Court on Tuesday, August 18.

Detective Inspector Martin Kane of Lancashire SOCU, said: "Our investigation uncovered a large–scale cocaine supply network between Lancashire, Merseyside and the South Coast. The drugs seizures we have made will dramatically reduce its supply and the harm cocaine causes across Lancashire and the North West.

"I hope that the sentences handed down send out a clear message that we are determined to bring to justice those who are involved in the supply of drugs in our county and beyond."

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Concern grows for missing Up Holland man

LANCASHIRE Police are trying to find a man who has gone missing from his home in Up Holland.

Stephen Knight, 40, was last seen at around 4.15am on Friday, July 24 after completing a night shift at work.

He is then believed to have returned home to his address on Daybrook, Up Holland but has not been seen or made contact with friends or family members since.

Stephen is described as white, 6ft 3in tall, stocky build with mousey receding hair and a moustache. He may be wearing a pair of jeans, black shirt and black jacket and is believed to have his two dogs with him, a Rottweiler and a German Shepherd.

Officers believe he could have been in Lancaster the day after he went missing and he could have also visited the Lake District.

Inspector Paul McLernon of Lancashire Police said: "We are getting increasingly concerned about Stephen as he has not been seen for quite some time now. I would urge anyone who has seen him or has any information about where he might be to contact us as soon as possible."

Anyone with information can contact police on 101 quoting log 952 of August 3rd.

Edge Hill flies flag again!

EDGE Hill University has won a prestigious Green Flag award from environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy for the fourth year running.

Green Flag Awards recognise and reward the best parks and green spaces across the country.

The campus has become a popular local attraction for thousands of visitors each year who come along for open days, conferences and guest lectures, as well as using its community sports complex and popular arts centre.

Martin Grayshon, Edge Hill's grounds manager, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have retained Edge Hill's Green Flag Award for a fourth year. This award is testament also to the hard work and endeavours of the grounds team and the facilities department of the university."

The Green Flag Awards are judged by more than 700 green space experts who visit applicant sites and assess them against eight strict criteria, including horticultural standards, cleanliness, sustainability and community involvement.

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Traders voice fears over long–term financial impact of disruption during town–centre works

MP labels council's rejection of market rents reduction plea 'disappointing'

TRADERS and retailers have expressed their frustration at the financial impact on their businesses of the ongoing refurbishment works in Ormskirk town centre.

They also voiced concerns about the long–term consequences of the dropping footfall in the town from both visitors and regular shops at the latest in a series of meetings chaired by West Lancs MP, Rosie Cooper and attended by respective cabinet members, County Councillor John Fillis from Lancashire County Council and Councillor John Hodson from West Lancashire Borough Council.

The meeting on Friday, July 31 came just a day after West Lancs Council issued letters to market traders rejecting calls for a 50% reduction in stall rents for the duration of the scheme.

Work to improve the pedestrianised section of Moor Street from moorgate to the clock tower, a partnership between the county and borough councils, began in February and is scheduled to be completed by September.

Following the meeting, Rosie Cooper said: "I want to thank all the Ormskirk traders and businesses who attended. Understanding the frustrations of local businesses, the challenges they face and their priorities for supporting their businesses is essential for the borough council in revitalising Ormskirk town centre.

"It was deeply disappointing that the day before the meeting the council had issued letters to the market traders rejecting their calls for a 50% discount of stall rents during the period of the works; and also that no council officers were at the meeting to answer the more detailed and long–running issues concerning traders and businesses.

"For too long there has been a lack of commercial focus on how Ormskirk town centre is managed under the previous Conservative administration. This needs to change and it needs to change quickly.

"Only by businesses, traders and the councils working together do we have a chance to deliver a more vibrant and revitalised Ormskirk town centre."

Deputy mayor, Cllr. Liz Savage (centre) pictured with some of the organisers, volunteers and performers at the Bickerstock Festival. Code1083088

Music festival hits right note

THIS year's Bickerstock Music Festival hit just the right note last weekend with a host of bands performing to packed–out crowds.

The annual event, held in Bickerstaffe, got underway on Friday before the 'official' opening the following day by Deputy Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Liz Savage.

Festival founder, Paul Draper, said: "I want to send a big thank–you to all the musicians who performed for free and whose professionalism added to the smooth running of Bickerstock 2015.

"However, it's the volunteers who selflessly give up their time which makes the event happen and we are already looking for more enthusiastic, energetic and self–motivated people to join us next year."

Mum drums up grand total for worthy causes

A MUM–of–three from Burscough raised more than £1,000 for the Alfie Lund Fund and Alder Hey Children's Hospital with a 15–hour music event.

Charlotte Kershaw organised the event at the Envi nightclub in Liverpool featuring DJs Lee Butler of Radio City and Juice FM's Baz Todd plus Ian Redman from electronic music group, Ultrabeat.

Tickets cost £12.50 and Charlotte chose to split the money between the two causes as she is a friend of Alfie's parents and Alder Hey Children treated one of her daughters as a child.

Six–year–old Alfie is one of only 25 people in the UK with the genetic condition MECP2 Duplication Syndrome, a chromosome abnormality that causes him severe learning difficulties.

Charlotte, who runs a personal trainer business, told the Champion: "This was the first of a number of fundraisers that I will be holding for these two charities which mean a lot to me. We have raised more than £1,000 so far but the money is still coming in."

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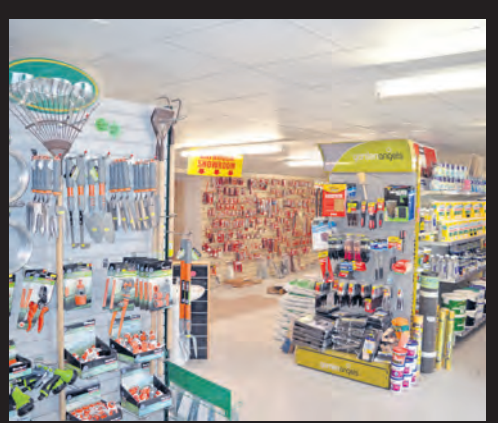

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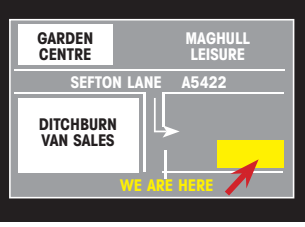

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Energy firm re–submits solar farm applications

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

CAMPAIGNERS who were delighted when a green energy firm withdrew plans to build two controversial solar farms in Aughton are baffled after finding applications for both sites had been re–submitted just weeks later.

BE Renewables Limited announced last month that they would be withdrawing their planning applications for farms on Formby Lane and Back Lane, Aughton, but said at the time they were still 'committed' to the schemes in the long term.

Now, just a few weeks later, identical plans have been submitted to West Lancashire Borough Council.

BE Renewables say they re–submitted the plans after completing reports for Natural England following their consultation response to the earlier applications.

Applications have been submitted to the borough council for solar farms on land to the west of Back Lane and to the rear Of Old Waggoners Cottage on Formby Lane, both in Aughton, and to the north of Pippin Street in Burscough.

Southport–based agents BE Renewables Limited submitted two planning applications on behalf of Back Lane Solar Limited for a ground–mounted photovoltaic (panelled) solar farm the size of 17 football pitches, with plans also allowing for 6.9 acres of land set aside for biodiversity and wildlife; and on behalf of Formby Lane Solar Limited for a ground–mounted photovoltaic solar farm the size of 13 football pitches.

The planning statement for the proposed Formby Lane Solar Farm states that Martin Mere and the Ribble and Alt estuary fall within 10km of the site and that the protected pink–footed geese must be taken into consideration as they rely upon agricultural land for foraging.

Commenting on the re–submission, BE Renewables managing director, Bob Ayres, stated: "We are pleased to have been able to conclude the reports requested in our discussions with Natural England and are confident that this will enable both applications to be considered for approval.

"We have also provided further information regarding the historic and cultural heritage assessment. Both Back Lane and Formby Lane solar farms remain as 5MW development generating a combined 9000MWh/year, sufficient for meeting the electricity needs of 2,600 homes and saving approximately 5,200 tonnes of CO2 per year.

"If approved the schemes will be developed in early 2016 and first generation is expected by summer next year.

"Both schemes will provide a community benefit fund which we have indicated can be used for supporting local good causes."

A spokesperson for the Protect Aughton's Landscape Together group, who have been fighting the proposals, said: "We found out on Friday that BE Renewables have re–submitted their two applications for solar farms at Back Lane and Formby Lane not much more than two weeks since they withdrew them!

"We have until August 20 to register objections so we need to draw people's attention to the fact that these have gone in again.

"The 600 letters of objection that went in last time don't count so we need people to understand that they have to re–submit."

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Mon 3rd
Hunters Hill Circular
Hunters Hill @ 10am
8 miles

Tues 4th
Burscough Circular
Richmond Park @ 10am
6 miles

Wed 5th
Ormskirk Circular Walk
Coronation Park @ 1pm
6 miles

Thurs 6th
Bat Walk
Beacon Country Park @ 8pm
4 miles

Fri 7th
Martin Mere Reedbed Walk
Martin Mere @ 10am
4 miles

Sat 8th
Useful & Edible Plants Walk
Beacon Country Park @ 10am
4 miles

Sun 9th
Burscough Wetland Walk
Platts Lake @ 10am
12 miles

Mon 10th
Beacon Park Heritage Walk
Beacon Country Park @ 2pm
4 miles

Tues 11th
Beacon Canal Loop
Beacon Country park @10am
8 miles

Wed 12th
Mere Sands Wood Walk
Mere Sands Wood @ 1pm
4 miles

Thurs 13th
Lathom Circular
Ruff Wood @ 10am
8 miles

Fri 14th
Bat & Moth Walk
Coronation Park @ 8pm
2 miles

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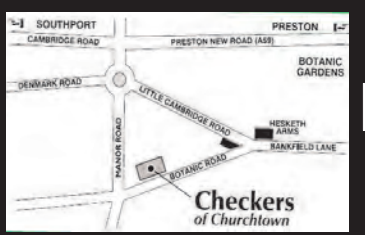

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1142415

Lancashire Police launch summer burglary campaign

"IT'S not just what they take, it's what they leave behind!"

That's the message from Lancashire Police as they launch a month–long burglary campaign.

The aim is to highlight the devastating impact that burglary can have on victims and comes as part of Operation Julius, a countywide burglary crackdown focussed on preventing crime, targeting criminals and detecting burglaries.

The campaign will run across the county during the whole of August and includes posters, adverts, outdoor media and social media activity. Officers will also be doing extra patrols in hotspot areas and targeting known offenders.

Assistant chief constable Mark Bates said: "Burglary is not a crime against the property but the person. It can have a truly devastating effect on how people feel in their own homes; often leaving that person feeling vulnerable, scared and anxious. It can also have a profound impact on the local community.

"We know that more than one in three burglaries happen when a property has been left insecure; and during the summer months when the weather is nice, people are more inclined to take extra risks, by leaving a window open for instance.

Assistant chief constable Mark Bates

"This campaign is about raising awareness of the impact that a burglary can have on the victims and making people think – no one ever considers that it could happen to them.

"We want to encourage people to take some simple steps to help themselves and reduce their chances of becoming a victim. The message from the campaign is clear: Be wise at home. Keep your windows and doors locked.

"We also want people to feel more informed about what is going on in their local area and what their local neighbourhood policing teams are doing to address issues; and I would therefore urge people to sign up to our free messaging system, In The Know, where they can receive regular updates, direct from their local team."

The campaign poster designs feature four scenarios, including an elderly man unable to relax in his home and a young child at playtime still haunted by the knowledge that her home was burgled.

Clive Grunshaw, Lancashire's police and crime commissioner, said: "Prevention is always better than cure so it's essential we inform Lancashire residents of steps they can take to help stop them becoming a victim of such an invasive crime.

"Lancashire is a safe place to live but we cannot be complacent and we must continue to take action to combat burglary so that everybody can feel safe in their own home."

For more information about the campaign and how to protect your home, outbuildings and valuables go to www.lancashire.police.uk/burglary.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Manager Paul Kane feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Crosby, Litherland, Aintree, Maghull, Walton, Anfield, Netherton, Bootle, Formby, Ormskirk and Skelmersdale areas & Paul is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Paul a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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1142498

Stocks Hall Nursing Home manager Sammi Molyneux (2nd left) and staff who led 25th anniversary celebrations. Code1082630

Home celebrates 25th anniverary

RESIDENTS of a West Lancs nursing home were joined by family, friends, former staff and the borough's mayor at a party to celebrate the home's 25th anniversary.

The event, at the Stocks Hall Nursing Home in Burscough, was officially opened by Councillor Nikki Hennessy, accompanied by her mum, as residents and visitors enjoyed a glass of bubbly, a buffet and the chance to have a chat, a dance and a sing–song!

Home manager, Sammi Molyneux, said: "It was an amazing day and a delight to see all faces past and present, including staff, friends and relatives. It was also an honour to have the Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Nikki Hennessy and her mum with us."

Cllr. Hennessy commented: "I was delighted to be invited to celebrate with everyone on the 25th anniversary of the home. To have served the older community of West Lancashire for 25 years is a great achievement."

Councillor slams 'lack of action' on threat to courts

Emergency council debate call ignored, claim

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A WEST Lancs councillor has accused the borough's mayor of failing to act on the closure threat to Ormskirk Magistrates' and Family Court by ignoring his call for an emergency item to be included on the agenda for the meeting of the full council on Wednesday, July 22.

Derby ward representative, Councillor Adrian Owens told the Champion that he had put forward the suggestion for an emergency debate on the matter to Councillor Nikki Hennessy the day before the meeting.

It followed the news that the Ormskirk courts had been among 18 in the North West recommended for closure in a report for the courts and tribunals minister, Shailesh Vara.

The report said that the threatened courts and tribunal buildings listed were under–used or of poor quality and announced a 12–week open consultation on the proposals to run until Thursday, October 8.

Cllr. Owens said he put forward the suggestion as the meeting was the only scheduled full council to be held during the consultation period.

He said: "An emergency motion was allowed the last time the magistrates' court was threatened with closure in 2006 and the strong cross–party opposition we secured then helped save the court. It is therefore disappointing that the mayor declined to act in a similar way this time."

A spokesman for the council said: "West Lancashire Borough Council has recently been made aware of a consultation document issued by the Ministry of Justice, on July 16, entitled 'Proposal on the provision of court and tribunal estate in England and Wales', which includes proposals for the closure of the Ormskirk Magistrates' Court as part of a wider review.

"The council did not receive the consultation document directly and had insufficient notice to enable a report on the matter to be prepared for consideration by full council.

"The council has arrangements in place for such situations and can confirm that it will be using these to respond to the consultation. As part of this process all councillors will be asked for their views.

"We anticipate that, as in 2006, the council will respond opposing the closure of the magistrates' court in Ormskirk."

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1142395

Civic reception for Prince's Trust team

Councillor Nikki Hennessy with members of the Prince's Trust Ormskirk Team 8 at their presentation evening **Code1082952**

MEMBERS of the Prince's Trust Ormskirk Team 8 were given a civic reception by Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Nikki Hennessy, to mark their succesful completion of the scheme.

Cllr. Hennessy hosted the celebration and award ceremony for the 10 team members at the borough council offices in Derby Street, Ormskirk.

The team were based at Ormskirk College on Hants Lane for the duration of the programme's 12–week development course which included a fully–paid, four–day residential project painting at Ormskirk Civic Hall.

The Prince's trust scheme is open to young people aged 16 to 25 and aims to give them the skills to help them to move into employment, further education or training.

Team members are given an appropriate two–week work placement to enable them to gain experience and a relevant reference.

Volunteers gain a qualification at the conclusion, along with other certificates, and the free course is appropriate for a range of people with additional support offered to those who need it.

Taking part in the programme will not affect Jobseekers' benefits.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in taking part in the next project, contact Ormskirk team leader Jonathon Marlow on 07870 168529 or email jonathon.marlow @westlancs.ac.uk.

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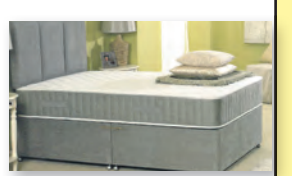

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Recent news regarding the cap on care home fees being pushed back to 2020 by the government means that it is more important than ever to ensure that your affairs are in order. The government had originally planned on introducing a cap in 2016 but this has been delayed until 2020; partly because of the recent announcement about increasing the National Living Wage which will effect the costs of providing care.

The first thing everybody should ensure they have in place is a will. This will ensure that your estate will pass to those who you want to benefit. Having a will gives you peace of mind that your estate will be distributed in accordance with your wishes.

There are also steps you can take in a will to protect assets for surviving beneficiaries and this can include the use of trusts.

You should also ensure you have put in place a Lasting Power of Attorney that has been prepared by a solicitor. A Lasting Power of Attorney allows you to appoint those people who you would want to look after you affairs if you can't do so yourself.

Lasting Powers of Attorney are often thought to only be necessary for later life but they are important for people of all ages and if you or a relative develops an illness such as Dementia or Alzheimer's then it will be too late to put in place a Lasting Power of Attorney at that stage as the loss of mental capacity will prevent a valid Lasting Power of Attorney from being created.

There is a common misconception that a spouse does not need power of attorney for their significant other. This is incorrect and married couples need to ensure they have Lasting Powers of Attorney in place as well.

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1142469

Champion LETTERS to the Editor

CHAMPION NEWSPAPERS
Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport, PR9 0QA
Telephone 01704 392 400
editor@champnews.com

Savings could easily be made by cutting councillors' allowances and only having one chief executive

I READ with particular interest the article on cutting the number of councillors.

The proposed motion by Councillor Paul Greenall calling on the Electoral Commission to review the number of councillors in West Lancashire is, on the face of it, a laudable one when the council are faced with the need to find numerous savings during the coming year.

However, a similar saving of over £100,000 per year could be made elsewhere and without the need for Electoral Commission intervention, which is a long and drawn–out process.

If this proposal were to be progressed then current single–member wards, Halsall, Rufford, Newburgh and Bickerstaffe would need to be made 50% bigger under Cllr. Greenall's proposal. This would inevitably be done by lumping them in with neighbouring communities with whom they have little if any affinity.

Many residents already claim that they never see their current councillor so what would the knock–on effect be of making wards bigger? Bickerstaffe ward, for example, would probably have to merge into Skelmersdale, a daunting task for any prospective councillor to service the needs for both the rural community of Bickerstaffe and that of Skelmersdale also.

The headline £100,000 saving could be made twice over.

There is already an 'independent' review of councillor expenses underway. Why not look at immediately reducing current councillor allowances which could very easily save £100,000 per year?

This independent review panel could seek the views of West Lancashire residents as opposed to just those of councillors themselves. Then they could take on board the public's view in relation to councillors answering their correspondence and acting upon any concerns that are raised by them.

If, however, a review of their own allowances is too close to home for our current councillors then why not look at the current senior management HR structure within West Lancashire Council? We are, to my knowledge, the only local authority that has two chief executive officers both costing in excess of £100,000 per annum. A quick–win cost–saving of over £100,000 per year without the need for a long drawn–out Electoral Commission review, in my humble opinion.

Perhaps Cllr. Greenall may wish to reconsider his proposal to reduce the number of councillors and motion the above two cost savings instead?

Gordon Johnson,
Derby ward resident

PICTURE of the week

www.champnews.com/pixonline

In the spotlight

First band on, The Jars, take to the Garden Stage to start the 2015 Bickerstock Community Music Festival last weekend.

Picture by Martyn Snape.

Code: 01083137.

Council should look at priorities

OUR recently–elected Labour council have a funny set of priorities.

A cleaner's job is lost as Councillors look at the budget yet they voted recently to keep their sky–high allowances.

Cuts have to be made elsewhere, so a council worker's job is now lost. It's appalling. Two managing directors, why do we need two?

Councillors need to be more accountable. I would ask how many councillors attend meetings? What do they do for the money they are paid?

I think a thorough overhaul needs starting and the first thing to look at is the attendance at meetings of councillors. After all, it is the residents of West Lancashire who are paying these allowances.

Jane Thompson, Our West Lancashire

These fly–tippers need reporting

DURING spring two other residents and I cleared the wooded clough which runs through the centre of Ashmead Road, Ashurst, Skelmersdale. We removed enough dumped household waste/litter etc. to fill four West Lancs Council wagons.

This was done in our own time over a month–long period for our community and we have received comments from residents on how well it now looks. It is also a haven for wildlife.

However, this week I was disappointed to find an amount of building waste, fence boards/concrete/flags and garden waste, dumped in the clough.

We will continue to ensure this clough is kept clean for all to enjoy. In the meantime whoever is responsible, expect a call, this has been reported.

I would also remind other residents that if you find/witness any fly–tipping you can report it online to WLBC.

Disappointed, by email

What a rip–off!

I REQUESTED copies of my medical records from Southport & Ormskirk Hospitals Trust and there is an administration charge of £10, which is very reasonable.

But for each copy of a page of my records there is a charge of 35p for a piece of paper! Another example of rip–off Britain.

James Riley, Carfield, Skelmersdale

A. G. barking up wrong tree with work comment

I TAKE exception to the letter from A. G. (Champion, July 15) about dogs barking, specifically the comment 'Maybe if you were in employment instead of pyjamas all day you wouldn't hear them'.

Does the writer of this letter know slavery has been abolished for some time? I don't know of anybody who works 24 hours a day seven days a week. If that was the case then they wouldn't need a home to live in as they would be working day and night. Problem solved then.

I got off my backside and out of my pyjamas and worked for over 50 years, so now I think I'm entitled to stay in my pyjamas if I so wish. I'm now well into retirement and some peace and quiet wouldn't go amiss.

The cacophony of barking dogs emanates not from one property but several in the area so the noise is sometimes in stereo or triplicate.

Who would want to buy my house with that row going on? It's a miserable existence for me.

A well–behaved dog is a joy to the owner, unfortunately a number of dogs and their owners are not well behaved, I only wish they were.

A. G.'s letter also states, and I quote, 'This letter (about the original letter on July 1) made me and my dogs look at each other in disbelief'. I would love to know how one would know how a dog looks 'in disbelief'. Did this person read the original letter to their dogs or maybe the dogs read the letter themselves? I wonder.

By email, details supplied

I WOULD like to remind A. G. (Letters, July 15) that there are many reasons why people are at home in the day apart from unemployment.

They may be shift workers, retired, carers, parents of young children or unable to work due to illness or disability. Some choose not to work.

Regardless of time of day, we are all entitled to a reasonable amount of peace and quiet in our own homes and gardens. Pet owners must take responsibility for undue disturbance caused by their animals, just as parents are responsible for any unsociable behaviour of their children.

I know from experience that dogs often bark when left alone by day or night. I understand that this may be due to boredom or seperation anxiety which can be helped with training. Let us not forget that lonely cats can also make a lot of noise.

Dear pet owners, I know you love your pets but please consider your neighbours!

Local resident, by email

• *Editor's note: Correspondence on this topic is now closed*

We have to jump in the car to find decent play areas

HAVING read recent letters regarding the play areas in Skelmersdale I have to agree with Mr David Symons.

The play areas in Skem are completely neglected and some have disappeared altogether.

I grew up on Tongbarn and what used to be a busy and well–used play area is now an empty crater, as is the Greenhill.

My nearest park now, as Mr Peter Etherington, is Coronation Park but I disagree with him as this is a poor relation of its namesake in Ormskirk which has countless new playground equipment.

The play equipment our Coronation Park has to be at least 25 years old. It was repainted about five years ago, which quickly peeled away, and whilst it's not un–useable, a clean–up and some new additions would be welcome.

In answer to another letter on the issue, why shouldn't Rosie Cooper be informed about the apparent unbalanced investment in playgrounds by the council? She is our collective voice, after all.

With two small children we visit many parks all over the country and always view them with envy. As with all aspects of recreation in Skelmersdale, if you want to experience modern playgrounds jump in the car kids!

Maria Lewis, by email

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1142236

Bike hire point opened at bus station

VISIT Sefton and West Lancashire has installed an automated cycle hire point at Ormskirk bus station available for anyone to use.

Bikes can be taken from one docking station and deposited at any other in West Lancashire, providing there is space.

The other cycle hire stations are at The Ship at Lathom, Riverside Holiday Park in Banks and two at Edge Hill University.

Bikes can be hired from as little as £1 per hour (a minimum charge applies). All you need to hire a bike is a mobile phone and a credit or debit card.

Councillor Ian Moran, West Lancs Council leader and portfolio holder for economic regeneration, said: "The new cycle hire point at the bus station in Ormskirk will make it easy for residents and visitors to hop on a bike – whether for business or pleasure. We hope people will take advantage of the cycle hire scheme and visit the many fabulous attractions the borough has to offer."

Helmets are not provided and people should bring their own if they want one. Although there is no legal requirement to wear a helmet when riding a bike on a public highway or footpath, cyclists are strongly recommended to do so.

More information on cycle hire can be found at www.visitsefton andwestlancs.co.uk along with a variety of themed cycle route maps which can be downloaded and information on great days out in the area.

Champion News Desk tel. 01704 392400

Commissioner's call to talk about policing

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

LANCASHIRE'S police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw is encouraging residents to join him to talk about policing issues across the county.

Mr Grunshaw is preparing to refresh his Police and Crime Plan and is holding a series of roadshows, as well as launching an online survey to ensure as many people as possible have their say.

The questionnaire is part of his 'Let's Talk Policing' campaign inviting residents to indicate the areas of policing they believe to be the most important.

Information collected in the surveys and at a series of roadshows where residents can meet the vommissioner personally to discuss their ideas, will go together as part of a review of the Police and Crime Plan to be presented to the police and crime panel in October.

Mr Grunshaw will hold a 'Let's Talk Policing' roadshow at Skelmersdale's Concourse Shopping Centre on Wednesday, August 26 between 11.30am and 2pm.

He said: "The views you share will help me, my team and the constabulary to understand the issues that are important to people living and working in Lancashire.

"It's really important I take the opinions of as many people as possible into account when I'm considering my police and crime plan as policing really is everyone's business.

"As police and crime commissioner, I am the voice of the public when it comes to policing and crime matters and I want people to know that I will listen to their opinions and act on them.

"Once we,ve collected all of the views they will help to shape the services provided by Lancashire Constabulary and community safety partnerships across the county to make Lancashire a safer place.

"I'd encourage all residents to take a few moments to complete this survey and let me know their views."

For more information and to fill in the survey or find out about the roadshows, visit lancashire–pcc.gov.uk/letstalk

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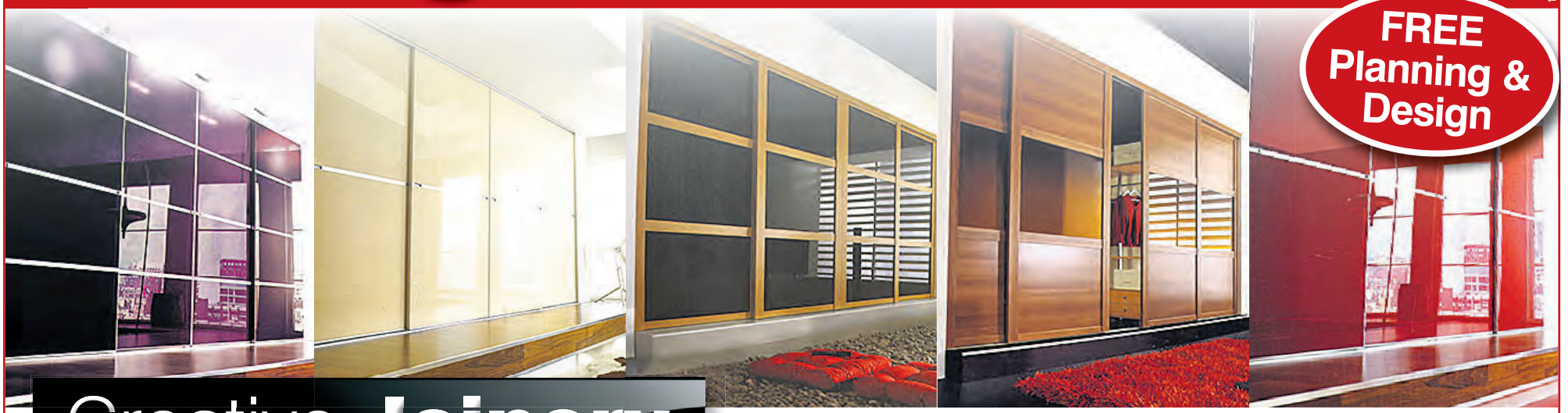

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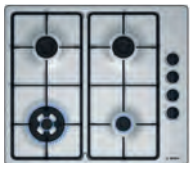
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Wind farm plan on borough border

Energy firm submits scaled–down proposal

Report by **Holly Rummens**

A PROPOSAL has been put forward to build a string of wind turbines, each the height of Liverpool's Radio City Tower, across a large area of farmland bordering West Lancashire.

The plan is to build 12 turbines, a wind monitoring mast, an on–site substation, underground cables and access tracks in Lower Alt.

Located on farmland bordered by Formby, Lydiate and Downholland Cross, the site was the subject of earlier proposals put forward by Coriolis Energy in 2013.

The company, which is behind 15 other wind farm developments across the UK, submitted plans back in 2013 to build 24 turbines at the site, but were unsuccessful after a backlash from both Sefton and West Lancs residents.

The wind farm scheme falls just within West Lancs Borough Council's border with Sefton.

Coriolis are now proposing a revised scheme with a reduced number of turbines and have organised a series of public exhibition and consultation dates for local residents to have their say.

The wind turbines are expected to reach a maximum height of 450 feet and would produce enough electricity to power between 16,000 and 22,000 average UK homes every year.

Objections to the previous proposal included concerns over the impact the wind farm would have on European protected sites such as Martin Mere and the Simonswood Moss pink–footed Goose roost.

Cath Ibbotson, development director at Coriolis Energy, said: "The site has excellent wind speeds and, we believe, the right characteristics for a wind project. Feedback from our previous consultations has fed into the current plans, with the number of turbines halved from 24 to now 12 turbines, we look forward to hearing from the public again."

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Home's helping hand for children's holiday fund

MRS Linda Burrows, manager of Springfield Court Nursing Home in Aughton, presents a cheque for £600 to Ray Jones, chairman of the Merseyside Children's Holiday Fund.

The money was raised by residents, families and friends of the home in Springfield Road, specifically to enable disadvantaged children from the area to enjoy days out on their annual holiday to Colomendy Camp, North Wales in August.

Also pictured are residents, Millly Ford and Hazel Cornthwaite.

Chance to play a part in village festival

WEST Lancs residents are being invited to play a part in creating an amazing adventure that will be brought to life in an explosion of colour at a fabulous festival.

The borough council's arts development service, Parbold Community Association and Parbold Unlimited have teamed up with professional artists, Andy and Sharon Shaw and writer, Sarah Schofield to set up an exciting programme of free creative activities this summer with the help of £15,000 grant from Arts Council England.

The theme behind the workshops, performances and exhibitions is to create a legend inspired by Parbold Hill. What lies beneath? Could it be a dragon or some other mysterious creature?

The artists have already worked with children from Our Lady's and All Saints Primary School and Parbold Douglas Academy and have produced some great puppets and stories. Free activities have also been organised for anyone of any age or ability who would like to get involved over the summer.

The fruits of all these creative activities will be performed in three chapters at the first Parbold Street Art & Music Festival on Saturday and Sunday, September 5 and 6.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, the council's portfolio holder for leisure, said: "The artists have promised an amazing adventure so come along and join in the fun and find out what lies beneath Parbold Hill. The festival will be a wonderful spectacle that I am sure everyone in Parbold will enjoy."

Anyone interested can join Sarah Schofield in creating the 'Legend of Parbold Hill, a tail to be discovered' when she hosts creative writing sessions for people aged 18 and over at Parbold Library on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, August 10, 11 and 13 from 7 to 9pm. No need to book, just go along.

Meanwhile, Andy and Sharon Shaw are hosting visual art workshops where people can make puppets, lanterns, boats and flags and other fantastic objects to be carried along the procession.

These are all family workshops but children and young people must be accompanied by an adult. For more information contact the arts development service on 01695 571328, or email chapel.gallery@westlancs.gov.uk.

Nursery 'pirates' raise £800 for Barnado's

YOUNGSTERS at Burscough Village Primary School nursery enjoyed a pirate party that raised £800 for vulnerable children.

The party was organised by staff at the school in Colburne Close as part of the Barnardo's Big Toddle national fundraiser.

Friends and family were invited to take part in a short sponsored walk around the school field and to add to the fun the little 'pirates' had to complete a set of challenges along the way, including walking the plank and cannon–ball bowling!

Veronica Bennett from the nursery said: "We had more than 60 children, parents and grandparents attend the toddle, it was a fantastic afternoon. Everybody took part in a treasure hunt around our sensory garden and then marched over the bridge on to the 'walk–the–plank' activity manned by our very helpful Year 6.

"And as the pirates journeyed over the field they had a go at Captain Hook' s hook–a–duck and also tried their luck at cannon–ball bowling!

"Our target was £250 but with generous donations we have managed to raise £800. We would like to say a big thank–you to everybody who sponsored the nursery children."

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Brewing up charity boost

A COFFEE morning organised by the Aughton–based fundraising committee of North West Cancer Research raised £585.

More than 70 people attended the event at the Aughton Institute which featured stalls selling handmade greetings cards, locally–made cakes, bric–a–brac and books. There was also a raffle and tombola with prizes including a hamper kindly donated by Co–operative Funeralcare of Wigan Road, Ormskirk.

All money raised will facilitate vital cancer research projects in the region.

Committee secretary, Ruth Griffiths, said: "It's wonderful to see the support of the local community. To raise nearly £600 is a great achievement."

Help Direct members who have become Dementia Friends

Friends in deed!

STAFF from an adults' support service have joined the drive to increase public understanding of dementia and remove the stigma surrounding the disorder by becoming Dementia Friends.

Four members of the Help Direct support and information service for adults across Lancashire, attended a free one–hour training session by local Dementia Friends Champion, Joe Sherville, at the West Lancashire Wellbeing Centre in Moorgate, Ormskirk.

Run by the national Alzheimer's Society, the Dementia Friends programme is the charity's major initiative to change people's perceptions of dementia. The aim is to recruit four million Dementia Friends with the know–how to help people with dementia feel understood and included in their community.

For more information visit www.dementiafriends.org.uk.

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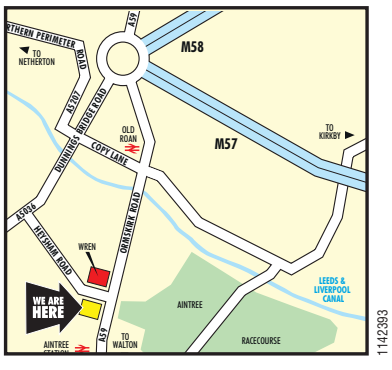

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Ormskirk author's new book

THE latest offering by Ormskirk author, songwriter and poet, David Cottrell, crime thriller, 'The 11th Hour' has been released by publishers Austin Macauley.

Melissa Ward from Austin Macauley said: "The 11th Hour is a story of the last days of a broken man. Daniel Brady has lost his wife and daughter and even seven long years haven't healed the constant feeling of loss. Then he meets Helena and in his darkest hour, seemingly his prayers have been answered."

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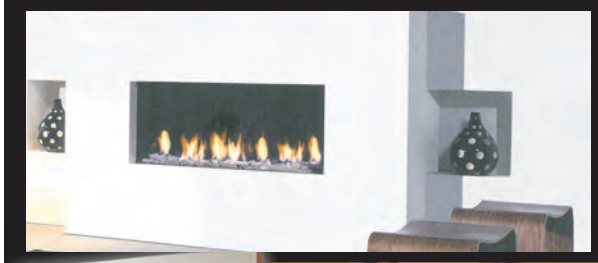

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In Hornblower's day we knew how to deal with the French

I AM currently re–reading CS Forester's Hornblower novels. And just at present they are in some ways very apposite.

Hornblower disliked the French (or 'Frogs' as he might have called them, though in this land of freedom of speech I cannot).

Indeed, one of the volumes is entitled 'Death to the French.' Well I do not wish death on any French person, but I do feel they collectively could do with a boot up the backside or a slap on the face with a wet codfish.

Great Britain is being slowly strangled by the disgraceful behaviour at the Calais end of the Channel Tunnel, while our leader, Prime Minister 'Call me Dave' Cameron still refuses to lay the blame firmly where it lies, partly for fear of upsetting our Gallic 'partners' and partly with an eye on the forthcoming European referendum.

It is not politic to say the French are anything but good friends acting in partnership to find a solution.

Yet the French authorities pay no more than lip–service to their responsibility, failing to take fingerprints of migrants and simply sending them on their way back to the tunnel on the rare occasions they do detect them.

They are all heading for Great Britain because we are seen as a 'soft touch.'

Even when we manage to detain illegal immigrants despite, rather than because of, our laughably slipshod border controls, our plans to 'fast track' them and put them on a boat back have been derailed by human rights lawyers.

And I am not saying that genuine asylum seekers should not be welcomed. It is simply that most are simply folk seeking a better place to live.

Indeed, the whole story is fraught with political overtones.

And it was so back in good old Hornblower's time too. Then, at various times it was impossible to know if a Spanish Man o' War hove over the horizon whether to fire a broadside at the enemy, or a salute to an ally.

Now, frankly, I think it is fairly easy to see that a broadside should be handed out – but that just isn't going to happen.

But I will be surprised if the touchy–feely approach to the French will ever come up with a solution to a problem bringing misery to many British citizens.

Whatever finally does emerge as an 'answer' will please no–one but the French and I'd bet a Hornbower cannonball to a European Civil Rights Bill that whatever decisions are made it will cost us, not them, a ship–load of money as well.

Choir looking for new recruits

OFFICIALS of a Skelmersdale community choir are on the lookout for new recruits.

The Engine Rooms' Choir, run by Laura Bennett and Emma Furnell, caters for all ages and abilities.

Currently the choir has 20 members but they are keen to expand.

Rehearsals take place every Tuesday evening from 6 to 7pm at the Westgate venue and weekly subs are £2.

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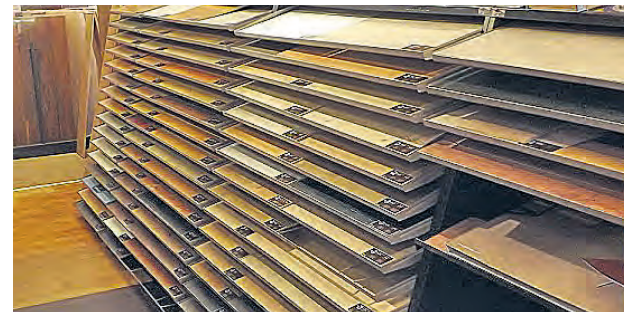

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Former Liverpool manager Roy Evans (centre, back) with some of the budding football stars who attended Ormskirk FC's summer school

Former Liverpool manager presents medals to summer soccer school 'graduates'

MORE than 120 sporty local youngsters have been treated to free football coaching at Ormskirk FC.

Run by the club's Football Association–qualified coaches, the fifth annual summertime sessions for boys and girls aged between five and 15, focused on fun, while also improving participants' fitness and technique.

At the final session former Liverpool manager, Roy Evans, presented medals to participants and gave a speech on the importance of staying active and enjoying sports before posing for photographs with the children and their parents.

Kevin Duffy, chairman of the club which has development groups for children aged four to six, 12 junior teams and two open–age sides, said: "Each year the sessions get better and better with more kids turning up and taking part. For some, it's their first experience of football so we hope to get them hooked for life.

"A big thanks to our coaches who deliver the excellent sessions and to Roy Evans for coming down and offering his support."

Anyone interested in joining the club or requiring more details can email ormskirkfc@hotmail.co.uk.

News Desk Tel. 01704 392400

Early help services funding cut

GOVERNMENT funding to help young people in Lancashire has been slashed by 58%, according to new research.

An investigation by The Children's Society and the National Children's Bureau (NCB) in collaboration with Children & Young People Now shows that government funding for a range of early help services across welfare, social care and children's services in the region fell by £287m between 2010 and 2015, from £499m to £212m.

In Lancashire it fell from £69.2 in 2010 to £29.3m this year, a reduction of £39.9m.

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Generation Games!

STAFF at a West Lancs care home invited local primary school pupils along to their first–ever Games Day as part of an initiative to bring different generations together to help residents stay active and stimulated.

Year 5 youngsters from St John's CE Primary in Crossens teamed up with residents at at Rose Lodge Care Home in Church Road, Banks, taking part in a number of acitivites, including bowls and hopscotch, with the winners being presented with 'gold' medals and certificates.

Home manager, Carolyn Ackers, said: "It was the first time we had held this event and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The children were a fantastic help."

St John's pupils and Rose Lodge residents show off their medals and certificates at the Games Day event

Business hub hosts Community Day

THE Martland Mill business centre played host to the second annual Burscough Community Day.

The event, organised by Joanna Marshall from St John the Baptist Church, aimed to enable the young people of the village to become more aware of the businesses, charities and organisations that exist in the community.

Staff from the companies based at the Mart Lane centre welcomed nine groups of 10 to 12 children who heard talks by parish councillors, speakers from the individual businesses and Sue Smith of the Mill's reception.

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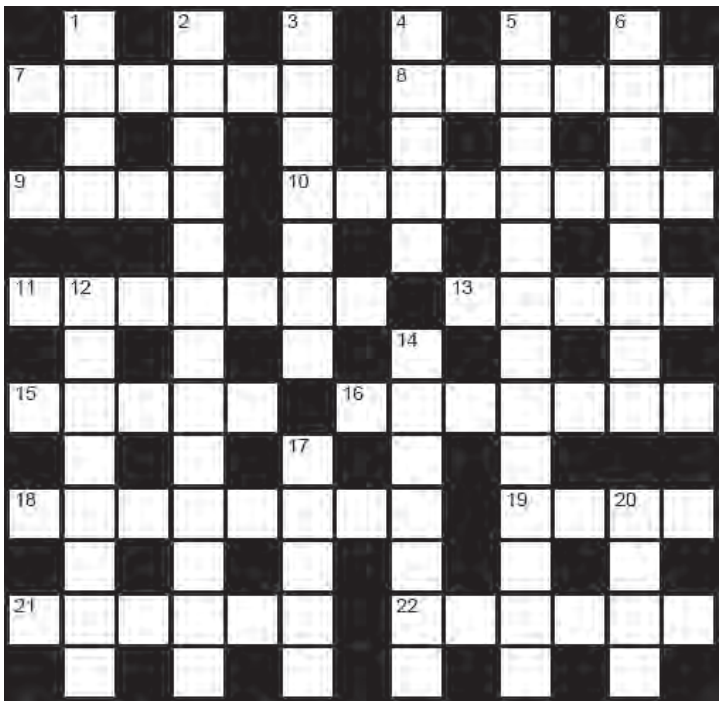

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

ACROSS: 7 Bistro. 8 Amount. 9 Hi Fi. 10 Eugenics. 11 Baleful. 13 Scene. 15 Parry. 16 Arrival. 18 Phrasing. 19 Grin. 21 Orient. 22 Noodle.

DOWN: 1 Kiwi. 2 Strikebreaker. 3 Rosebud. 4 Baggy. 5 Connecting rod. 6 Anaconda. 12 Anaphora. 14 Oregano. 17 Lists. 20 Isle.

ACROSS

7 Shortcoming (6)
8 In an uncontrolled manner (6)
9 Colour between black and white (4)
10 Process of establishing who is present (4,4)
11 Remove tangles from hair (4,3)
13 Tread heavily and noisily (5)
15 Thorough investigation (5)
17 Separate from a larger group (4,3)
20 Pot for spitting into (8)
21 Military status (4)
22 Posted (6)
23 Informal (6)

DOWN

1 Informal term for an eccentric person (6)
2 Openly resist (4)
3 Breastbone (7)
4 Reside (5)
5 Term for formal evening dress (5,3)
6 Downhill ski race on a zig-zag course (6)
12 Childish conversation (4,4)
14 Denote (7)
16 Revoke (6)
18 Bring to an end (6)
19 Dutch cheese (5)
21 Depend (4)

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County launches website to support forces veterans

LANCASHIRE County Council have launched a new website to support and help armed forces veterans and their families.

The site includes ways for people to get involved with groups, activities and events to support the armed forces and veterans and aims to provide advice and information about services that are relevant for those who serve or have served their country and their families.

The website was officially launched by the leader of the county council, Jennifer Mein along with representatives of 42nd Infantry Brigade; the council's armed forces champion, Darren Clifford; representatives from the Royal British Legion and forces champions from district councils.

Pictured at the launch are council leader,Jennifer Mein, armed forces champion Darren Clifford and warrant officer class 1 Peter Burke from the 4th Battalion, Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

It can be found at www.lancashire.gov.uk/armedforces.

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Talent search

AUDITIONS are underway for the annual Aughton's Got Talent event in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

The event will be held on Saturday, September 19 and the aim is to raise a minimum of £2,000 for the cancer charity.

This year's fundraising will be particularly significant for one of the principal organisers, David Gallagher, whose 50–year–old cousin, Linda, died last November after a long and brave battle against the dreaded disease.

David said: "As always, successful contestants will receive gold, silver and bronze medals but there will also be an Aughton's Got Talent Cup to be decided by public vote with the winner receiving a small replica to keep while a large perennial cup will be engraved and kept at Aughton Village Hall."

Auditions are being held every Monday at Aughton Village Hall from 3 to 6pm.

Renewed plea for £2m link road development

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A COUNTY councillor has renewed calls for £2million link road development to take traffic out of Tarleton, Banks and Hesketh Bank in a bid to reduce the number of accident in the area.

West Lancashire North Councillor Malcolm Barron claims a number of accidents in the area during the last five years have been caused by excess heavy goods vehicle traffic using narrow lanes. In the most recent incident a commercial vehicle slipped down a bank into a ditch on Gorse Lane in Tarleton last week.

Plans were drawn up in 2011 by Lancashire County Council for a proposed £2million bypass named the Green Lane Link to divert farm vehicles from the villages' narrow roads.

The link was to connect the A565 with Taylors Meaneygate in Tarleton and effectively extend Green Lane to join the main road, with the aim of diverting traffic away from an accident blackspot at the junction of Gorse Lane and Green Lane, Tarleton.

However, the project has been put on hold by the county council until 2019/20.

Now residents have formed the Green Lane Action Group which aims to put pressure on to the council to speed up work restarting on the Link by photographing all accidents which happen in the affected areas.

Cllr. Barron said: "I have been campaigning for a link road to take traffic out of Tarleton, Banks and Hesketh Bank. This road would also greatly reduce traffic on the A565 Southport New Road by creating a roundabout and removing or limiting use of dangerous crossings.

"It has been delayed by four years although £270,000 has already been spent. In the last five years on a 2.5 mile stretch of the A565 there were 42 collisions with 80 casualties – 20 serious and one fatal.

The action group's photograph of a lorry which slipped down the bank on Gorse Lane in Tarleton last week

"The Green Lane Action Group met on Monday, July 27 and agreed to photograph traffic incidents. The very next day a wagon was reported in the ditch on Gorse Lane in Tarleton – a road on which the link would largely reduce HGV use. of. The accident was caused because the road which was not wide enough for two HGVs. This is not the first time this has happened on this road."

County Councillor John Fillis, Lancashire's cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "The county council's decision in October 2014 to defer the Green Lane Link scheme was as a direct result of austerity measures imposed on it by changes to central government transport funding.

"It should be understood that the council has deferred and not cancelled this scheme. If opportunities arise that will enable the funding of the Green Lane Link, then the council would bring the proposal forward again. The county council has made a commitment to building the link when funding becomes available. It is likely to be 2019/20 when the work begins."

Hospital fashion show raises £1,400 for hospice

STAFF at Renacres Hospital, Halsall raised £1,400 for Queenscourt Hospice when they staged a fashion show with a difference.

The 'Fashion for Compassion' event was organised in collaboration with local buisnesses and held at the Vincent Hotel in Southport.

More than 130 fashionistas attended the event and were greeted on the black carpet by saxophonist, Mike Smith, photographed by Katarzyna Stepien and enjoyed a glass of prosecco.

Busy Body's Lingerie Specialists and Muse showcased their designerwear by models who generously donated their time and during the interval guests enjoyed delicious canapes and cupcakes and were entertained by Francesca Rimmer.

Money was raised on the night by raffle ticket sales for the lavish prizes contributed by the local business community and guests were also treated to Renacres Hospital–branded goody bags.

Hospital sales and marketing manager, Wendy Williams, said: "The Fashion for Compassion fundraising event was a great success in raising much–needed funds for such a worthy cause. Thank–you and well done to everyone involved."

Pictured at the event are (from left) Jan Morton from Busy Body's Lingerie Specialists, compere and hospital marketing assistant, Keyana Mohammadi and Jenny McGreal from Muse

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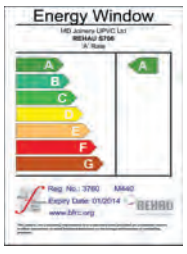

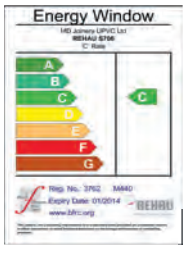

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Vintage Fair will add to MotorFest attractions

THERE'S more to the Ormskirk MotorFest than motors!

That's the message from organisers of the annual extravaganza to be held this year on Sunday, August 30.

Families can browse through a wide range of goods and enjoy exciting games and entertainment at the fabulous Vintage and Handmade Fair on the day, while for those looking for creative activities there will be plenty of demonstrations and an opportunity to have a go at using a potter's wheel.

There is also a chance to visit the West Lancashire Open Exhibition, showcasing 134 individual artworks, displaying a variety of media and extraordinary talent.

A great variety of stalls are planned for the fair at the Chapel Gallery and on Ormskirk bus station car park, while 'Charlie Chaplin'

Councillor John Hodson

will entertain the crowd with more exciting family activities in store plus free face painting.

The Skelmersdale Brass Band will be performing in Coronation Park between 2 and 4pm on the day to add to the family entertainment.

Meanwhile, a few opportunities are still available for makers of vintage, handmade, recycled and upcycled goods to have stalls at the vintage fair, and collectors of Matchbox or Dinky toys ranging from steam rollers to sports cars, or vintage transport memorabilia can also show or sell their collections. For more details contact the Chapel Gallery on 01695 571328 or by email at chapel.gallery@westlancs.gov.uk.

Ormskirk MotorFest is a free event organised by Aintree Circuit Club, supported by West Lancashire Borough Council.

Councillor John Hodson, the council's portfolio holder for planning, said: "The MotorFest is a fantastic day out for people of all ages and having a Vintage Fair on the same day is a great bonus."

Clock ticking for electoral boundaries consultation

THERE is still time for local people to tell the independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England where they think new electoral division boundaries should be drawn across Lancashire.

The commission is asking people and organisations for their help to produce a new pattern of electoral divisions for 84 county councillors.

Max Caller, chair of the commission, said: "We are asking local people and organisations to help us draw up a new pattern of electoral divisions for the whole county. We want to hear local views on where people think the focal point of their community is and where the natural boundaries between communities might lie.

"We will try to ensure that each county councillor represents roughly the same number of voters. We also aim to produce a pattern of divisions that reflects the interests and identities of communities.

"The commission will carefully consider all evidence presented to it during this phase of the review whoever it is from and whether it applies to the whole county or just a small part of it."

The commission is gathering local views before it draws up draft recommendations for a new pattern of divisions which are due to be published in November. Local residents and organisations will then get another chance to have their say in a further round of consultation.

The first phase of consultation closes on August 31.

For further information go to www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk or www.lgbce.org.uk.

Dame's plain speaking tip to students!

NEVER use jargon, be eccentric and learn to cook! Those were just some of the words of wisdom offered to students from Edge Hill University's faculty of arts and science last week.

The advice was issued by Dame Janet Suzman when she visited the Ormskirk campus to receive an Honorary Doctor of Arts award.

The actress who has enjoyed a long and successful career in both stage and film and is an Honorary Fellow of the Shakespeare Institute, told students at the ceremony: "Never use jargon, always express your thoughts with clarity and with economy. Be as eccentric as you care to be, don't follow the sheep, don't eat rubbish food, learn to cook and always be kind."

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Businesses urged to join breastfeeding–friendly scheme

HEALTH professionals across Lancashire are raising awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding by encouraging local businesses to sign up to the 'Breastfeeding Friendly Places Scheme.'

Lancashire Care NHS Trust is celebrating National Breastfeeding Week (August 1–7) by working with National Childbirth Trust volunteers and Blueberries Café to spread the word to other local businesses about signing up to the scheme which supports new mums to breastfeed their baby in a welcoming environment.

Barriers

The scheme was put in place to reassure mothers that they don't need to feel anxious or embarrassed about breastfeeding their baby and to help break down any potential barriers that can sometimes be experienced.

Vikki Livsey, perinatal health worker at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: "The work we did with Blueberries Café and the NCT volunteers was a great success, we made a real impact on neighbouring businesses encouraging them to sign up to the scheme and support mums to be able to feed their baby when out and about in places they know they will be made welcome to do so."

To sign up to become a Breastfeeding Friendly Place, contact the specialist infant feeding team on 01254 358046.

West Lancs UKIP branch to hold public meeting

THE West Lancashire branch of UKIP is holding a public meeting on Thursday (August 6) at the Aughton Institute in Bold Lane, starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

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Sales Advisor Lynn says: "The transformation of this historic flour mill site into 56 stunning contemporary apartments has been warmly welcomed by the local community.

"The homes retain many of the traditional architectural features of the iconic building, helping to combine character with contemporary living."

The Ainscough Mill apartments sit adjacent to the Leeds Liverpool Canal just off Mill Lane, and are available to reserve now from just £137,995.

Lynn adds: "Buyers are being quick to recognise that this is an exclusive location that not only offers a wealth of history, but also the convenience of apartment living. It is easy to see why they are being snapped up so quickly, especially with the 5% deposit currently being gifted to purchasers.

"We would urge people to hurry if they want to be a part of this new community."

The apartments boast a superb contemporary kitchen, carpets throughout and a personal parking space.

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Sister Act comes to Liverpool Empire

Report by **Tom Martin**

SISTER Act will be performed at Liverpool Empire Theatre in October as part of a new national tour.

Jamie Wilson, the producer, is delighted to announce upcoming dates for the musical comedy, which is directed and choreographed by Craig Revel Horwood with musical supervision and arrangements by Tony award–winning Sarah Travis.

Sister Act will play the Liverpool Empire Theatre from 10–15 October 2016.

Director and Choreographer Craig Revel Horwood said: "I am truly thrilled to be directing and choreographing this all new production of Sister Act, a show I fell in love with when I saw it a few years ago. I am currently putting together a dream creative team and can't wait to get started next year on this hilarious and wonderful show".

Producer Jamie Wilson said: "I am delighted to be presenting this all new production of Sister Act at both Curve, Leicester and on tour. I couldn't think of a better theatre to be producing this show with and am thrilled Nikolai Foster and his team will be welcoming those singing nuns next Summer!"

Artistic Director of Curve, Nikolai Foster added: "It's been a great joy collaborating with Craig on Annie and having been inspired by many of his innovative productions as director, I know, along with Sarah's inspired musical leadership, they will deliver an exhilarating and hugely original production at Curve".

Based on the smash hit movie starring Whoopi Goldberg and Maggie Smith, Sister Act tells the hilarious story of Deloris Van Cartier, a disco diva whose life takes a surprising turn when she witnesses a murder.

Under protective custody she is hidden in the one place she won't be found – a Convent! Disguised as a nun and under the suspicious watch of Mother Superior, Deloris helps her fellow sisters find their voices as she unexpectedly rediscovers her own.

Tickets went on general sale today (Wednesday, August 5).

Whoopi Goldberg in the 1992 hit film Sister Act **Code NA**

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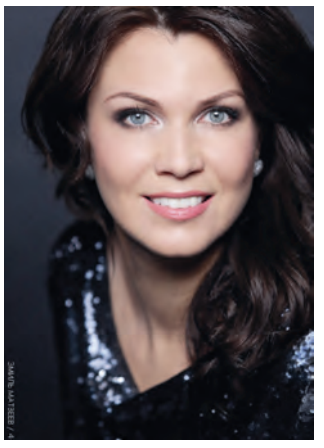
Grammy–winning Russian soprano to launch opera series at St George's Hall

STARS of Plácido Domingo's Operalia are heading to Liverpool this autumn for a new opera performance series at St George's Hall.

The Liverpool Opera – Four Seasons makes its debut at the iconic venue on Thursday, October 1 at 7.30pm, with a concert headlined by Grammy Award–winning Russian soprano Ekaterina Lekhina to launch the programme.

The performance will take place in the stunning concert room and the programme will include works by Mozart, Puccini, Verdi, and Donizetti.

Soprano star Ekaterina Lekhina will be joined by special guest, Barbara Ruzsics, who lives in Liverpool and graduated at the Liszt Academy of Music and is a student of soprano star, Eva Marton; and David Walters who is Liverpool Hope University's accompanist and piano tutor.



Ekaterina Lekhina

Gyula Mesterházy, co–founder of GuliAnd Management commented: "Liverpool's cultural offering continues to grow so we are delighted to debut this new series of concerts in the city. We chose the Concert Room at St George's Hall as the perfect backdrop to perfectly complement the beautiful voices our audiences will hear."

Ekaterina Lekhina made her international opera debut in 2007 at the Vienna Volksoper, and has performed at venues including the Royal Opera House; Deutsche Oper; Bolshoi Theatre; Staatsoper Berlin; and Teatre Real Madrid.

She has worked with celebrated conductors including Antonio Papano, Kent Nagano, and Leopold Hager. She won the prestigious Diapason d'Or prize in France, and took first place at Plácido Domingo's Operalia Paris.

Spanish singer Domingo is celebrated globally as one of the Three Tenors along with fellow Spaniard José Carreras and Italian singer Luciano Pavarotti.

For further information please visit www.StGeorgesLiverpool.co.uk.

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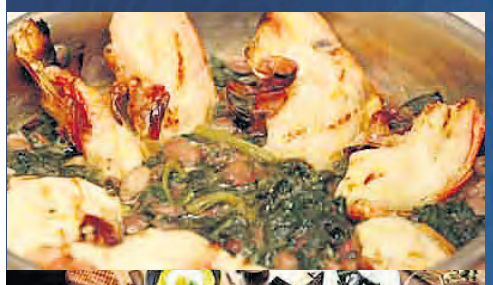

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HOUSE AND HOME

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RUG 7'6 x 5'3 white beige brown £8 0151 531 8977

SIDEBOARD teak wood. H31'W66'D19'. Superb condition. Aughton area. £80 o.n.o. 07821417560

SILVER TAPS set of bathroom and matching sink taps excellent conditionbargain £15 o.n.o. 01695 732586

SLOW COOKER hardly used 1.5 litre £15 01695 572836

STANDARD LAMP AND cream shade excellent quality and condition May deliver £85 o.n.o. 01515263851

TABLE highly polished round inlaid, 4 balloon chairs £100ono. Italian dark red three seater sofa, leather £150 01695 723374

TABLE CLOTH (104' x 63') deep raspberry colour with satin bounded fluted edges and 6 matching serviettes £15 07821417560

TEA SET Coleclough Rosebud design tea set with12 side plates and saucers, 10 cups, 2 sandwich/cake plates, milk jug and sugar bowl £10 01695423252/07976 131914

THREE RADIATORS COMPLETE with brackets and valves. One 2030 x 600mm and two 640 x 600mm. £50 the lot 07977 344241

TWO MIRRORS Bevelled decorative white surround (74cm x 63cm) and plain decorative white surround (75cm x 65cm); can email/text photos £20 each 07966 295788

TWO TIFFANY STYLE bedside table lamps. Excellent condition. House move forces sale. £25 01704212910

UPRIGHT FREEZER PROLINE (Curry's) 6 internal drawers, 56" High x 23" wide. Full working order, been in garage, house move forces sale. £45 01704212910

VICTORIAN SPOON–BACKED CHAIR blue fabric, sprung seat, buttoned back, ex cond, sale due to lack of space £70 01704 212705 or 07745 021318

VINTAGE ELECTRIC FIRE Cozy Glow log effect set in wrought iron basket £20 07842 280510

WARING AND GILLOW 60's Hostess Trolley, burnished gold with smoked grey glass shelves, excellent condition £30 o.n.o. 01704 893038

WASHING MACHINE SLIMLINE Fagor Slimline Top loader white washing machine. 5kg capacity and 1200 rpm spin in good working order. May deliver. £65 01704 560150

WHIRLPOOL FRIDGE FREEZER white in excellent condition £65 07842 280510

YEW WOOD BOOKCASE Bookcase has 2 drawers and 1 shelf. Has cup stain and small dent hence low price. Birkdale area. Ring for details. £15 o.n.o. 07845328005

GARDENING

WANTED PLASTIC garden storage and greenhouse staging £. 07546254448

BOSCH LAWN RAKE and scarifier ALR900. Used twice, still in box, fantastic condition, house move forces sale. Over £150 new, this is as new. £75 01704212910

PAIR SUN LOUNGERS blue/white stripe, good clean condition £20. small BBQ on wheels, ex cond £5 0151 526 6342

QUALCAST 450W Grass Trimmer and Lawn Edger £25 o.n.o. 01704 500200

HOBBIES

AQUAROLL 29 litre fresh water container, with transport handle and 3 plastic waste water containers £34 01257 462884

CARAVAN AWNING size 960 blue/grey, 4 removable panels, curtains, fly screes, aluminum frame, german make, ex cond £250 01772 812767

CARAVAN BREATHABLE COVER to fit 19–21ft caravan, grey, zipped access, tie down straps good cond £50. caravan leveller by bulldog cost £85 accept £20 01772 812767

CARAVAN STABILISER bulldog 200Q with quick release handle, car fixing bracket and caravan fixing bracket £42 01257 462884

CRATE BASS COMBO BX50 DLX bass amplifier combo Made in USA, inbuilt distortion via footswitch (original footswitch included) and inbuilt chromatic tuner. Perfect working order and used for home practice only. £105 o.n.o. 01704831977

DINGHY TRUST 8 Floatation very good – will hold 4 people round side when full to gunnels; ideal for boat tender £220 07936 290596

FIVE 1000PC JIGSAWS Gibson shopping basket memories of 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1980, VGC £10 01704 541276

HOOVER FREEZER under worktop model with 4 drawers; 9 months old, hardly used £80 01704 574314

JIGSAW PUZZLES 1000 pieces, Gibsons, Falcon, Ravensburger, all complete, good condition £ 01704 231007

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HOBBIES

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TWO GREEN fold up Camping Chairs, pair for only £6 07544 036210

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WINDBREAK – laurel hedge patterned 4'x13' made from robust weatherproof material, with poles. Unused, still boxed. Surplus to requirements. £25 o.n.o. 07821417560

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DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES DVD Complete series 1 to 6. Excellent condition as only watched twice. Great series for aged 15 and over. Birkdale area. £25 07845328005

DOUBLE QUILT DUCK feather+down 4.5 tog not used was part of 2 piece winter quilt £15 07821417560

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HIFI SPEAKER CABLE high end quality speaker cable, made in Holland, superb sound quality, banana plugs also available £20 01704831977

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TRAXDATA CD RECORDER little used, call Mike £10 07780 850905

VINYL ALBUMS for sale: Queen, Wings, 10cc, ELO, Elton, Simon & Garfunkel, Jacko, Stewart, Steves, Hollies, Bread, Joel etc. and many more – each only £1 07538 238878

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TOYS AND GAMES

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ELIZABETH ARDEN 'RED DOOR' Eau de Toilette spray – 100ml – unopened sealed box. Unwanted gift. Retail cost £29.99 – will sell for £18 07821417560

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ARMITAGE LES

Les's family would like to thank all relatives and friends for their love and support, and for the many Mass cards, messages, flowers, and donations to Queenscourt Hospice. Special mentions to Dr Unwin and all at Norwood surgery, Dr Groves and the many that make up the team at Queenscourt Hospice. We would like to thank Fr Gaine for all his time and prayers. Jeanette, Andy and all at the Old Links. Finally, thank you to Lisa Hunter and all at MLS for their guidance and support through this difficult time.

1142497

DEATHS

Crowley Ted

Passed away on Saturday 1st August 2015.

Ours is just a simple prayer for God
to keep you in his care,
good night
God bless Pops

Broken hearted
Grandaughter Kayleigh
& Great Grandchildren
Aliyah & Warren

xxx

1142609

DEATHS

Crowley Ted

Passed away on Saturday 1st August 2015.

Nothing could be more beautiful, than the memories we have of you, to us they're very precious because they are of you.

Good night,
God bless Dad.

Loving daughter Lyn,
son in law Jonny &
grandson Dayne
xxx

1142612

DEATHS

PILKINGTON JAMES EDWARD (JIM)

July 26th 2015

Aged 82 Years

In hospital after a short illness bravely borne. Loving husband to Edna, devoted dad to Janet and Ian, father in law to Louise, cherished grandad to Isobel and the late Emily and Charlotte. Jim will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 6th August at 2:40pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Macmillan Cancer Support. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

1142464

DEATHS

Allison Joan

30th July 2015

Aged 95 years.

Joan passed away peacfully in Courtfield Lodge. Rest in peace Mum from son Ian and daughter-in-law Marj.

Family flowers only, but donations if desired for Alzheimers Society.

All enquiires to Hunters Funeral Directors
128b Burscough Street, Ormskirk.
Tel: 01695 572997.

1142553

BIRTHDAYS

Bunting Debbie (Nee Winrow)

5th August

Happy 40th Birthday

Love and best wishes
from Mum
and all the family
(and Dad,
star in the sky)
XXX

45621

DEATHS

Crowley Ted

1st August 2015

You've earned your place
in Heaven Ted,
after all that
you've been through.
We wish we could
have helped you,
But there was nothing
we could do.
God saw you getting weary,
A cure was not to be.
He put his arms around you
and whispered come to me.
Your painful days are over,
your restless
nights have passed,
God took you in his arms
and whispered peace at last.
We cannot bring the old
days back when we
were all together.
But memories keep
you close to us and
memories last forever,
By the old rugged cross
you sit with a smile,
waiting for those you
have left for a while,
And those you have left
with their grief and their loss
Will meet you one day
by the old rugged cross.
Loving sister in law Jacqui,
Loving niece Annmarie and
husband Ste, great nephew
Joseph, great Niece
Olivia
XXXXX

45246

DEATHS

Crowley Ted

Passed away Saturday 1st August.

Goodnight,
God bless Ted.
Love from sister in law
Ann & John,
nieces Mellissa
& Natalia
XXX

45622

DEATHS

Crowley Ted

1st August 2015

Peacefully aged 73 years.

Beloved husband of Joan. Dear dad to Lyn, Neil, Colin. Also a dear grandad and great grandad. Funeral service on Monday 10th August at St Richards Church at 10.30am followed by St Helens Crematorium at 11.30am.

Family flowers only please, all donations to Alzheimers society. Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Services. 01695 731199

1142606

DEATHS

Crowley Ted

Passed away on Saturday 1st August 2015

They say
memories are golden,
and maybe that's true.
So we'll keep
our precious
memories,
But we would rather
just have you.

Loving son Colin,
daughter-in-law
Johanna,
grandson Max &
grandaughter
Faye

XXXX

1142611

DEATHS

Aindow Sydney (Syd)

30th July 2015

Peacefully in Southport Hospital. Aged 79 years.

Loving husband
of Margaret.
A dear Dad & Grandad.

Funeral Service taking place at Southport Crematorium on Thurs 6th Aug at 12.40pm. Family flowers only, donations are being gratefully received for The Stroke Association C/O. and all enquiries to J.W. Ball (Southport) Ltd. 95 Bispham Rd, Southport.
Tel 01704 228632.

1142510

IN MEMORIAM

Stoddart Leonard

7th August 1915

Killed in action at Gallipoli.

In loving memory of
uncle Leonard

Anita Bentley
x

45710

Burns CaroleAnn

6th August 2009

Carole

Always in my thoughts.
Forever in my heart.
Your everloving
husband Phil.

6113597

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday Fred Marsh

7th August 1935

Happy 80th Birthday

wishes from
Bren, Fred, Suz,
Nev, Becca, Beth
& Day.

6113940

DEATHS

Crowley Ted

Passed away on Saturday 1st August 2015.

One must experience
chaos within oneself
in order to give birth
to a shining star.

Your light shone
upon us all.

Love always

Neil & Moira

xxx

1142610

DEATHS

Crowley Ted

Passed away on Saturday 1st August 2015

Ted, thank you for the
years we shared,
All the love you gave
and the way you cared,
To see you go was
hard to bare,
But now I know you're
in God's care,
Fond memories of a
beautiful man,
And the good times we
shared down the years,

We will never
forget you,
Your loving wife Joan
xxx

1142608

DEATHS

Martin Antony

25th July 2015

Aged 20 years.

Loving son of Paul
and Anna and
fantastic brother
to Leon,
Emma and Laura.
Taken far too soon
G.B.N.F
Shine bright
my angel
life won't ever
be the same,
always in
our hearts.

Love
Mum, Dad,
Leon, Emma
and Laura
XXXXX

1142596

PRAYER

Saint Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us, St. Jude worker of miracles pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless pray for us.

Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayers may be answered. Say it for 9 days and it has never been known to fail.

Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude

Instructions:
Light your candle and declare out loud what miracle you need right now. Repeat this prayer 9 times for 9 days. Do this at the same time each day, never skip a day. If you do, you need to start over again. On the 9th day give thanks, and say "So be it." Give it up to Saint Jude and let go of any worry. You will see results in 72 hours. Never use this prayer to manipulate or control anyone. Use it only with the best intentions.

This is the most important part of the entire process YOU MUST pass this miracle prayer onto others. Some people publish it in the paper, others e-mail it to their friends, and others post it a public building.

T.Y.

BIRTHDAYS

Reg Blakeman

This handsome young chap is 90 on 11.8.15

Happy Birthday
Dad
with lots of love
from Lynne, Phil,
Susan all your
Grandchildren
and Great
Grandchildren
XXX

45486

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (SCHOOL LANE, BURSCOUGH, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) (No.2) ORDER 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council have made an Order under Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle, cycle or pedestrian from proceeding over that length of School Lane, for a distance of 20 metres either side of School Lane Railway Bridge East, Burscough, in the Borough of West Lancashire.

An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:-

School Lane – A59 Liverpool Road North – A59 Liverpool Road South – A5209 Square Lane – A5209 Briars Lane – Ring o' Bells Lane – Carr Lane – School Lane and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable a safety examination of the railway bridge to be carried out.

The prohibition will be operative from 0800 hours until 1600 hours on Sunday 9th August 2015, or until completion of the works within this period.

Laura Padden, Highway Regulation and Inspection Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701
[Ref: LHS/BS/08/118/ARH]

1142516

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2015/0759/FUL Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar arrays to provide ~5MWp generation capacity together with transformer stations; internal access track; electricity sub-station; landscaping; fencing; security measures; access gate; and ancillary infrastructure at Land To The West Of, Back Lane, Aughton.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
Application No: 2015/0760/FUL Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar arrays to provide ~5MWp generation capacity together with transformer stations; internal access track; electricity sub-station; landscaping; fencing; security measures; access gate; and ancillary infrastructure at Land To The Rear Of Old Waggoners Cottage, Formby Lane, Aughton.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2015/0707/FUL Alterations to brick up existing garage door and a new door opening to gable at The Old Vicarage, Back Lane, Newburgh.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's web site www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to the Planning Division, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Assistant Director Planning
Dated: 5th August 2015
PDNOT855

1142524

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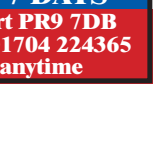

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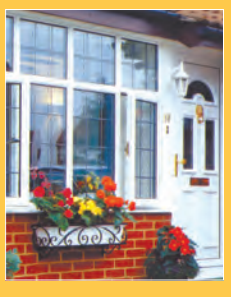

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C4 Cactus is wilfully weird and one you can't forget in a hurry

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER
www.lifeoncars.blogspot.com

EVERYONE has a favourite Citroen. Whether you ask your mum or your best mate – or even your best mate's mum – I reckon anyone with even an ounce of car awareness can reel off at least one of the French firm's offerings.

It might be a rustic old 2CV or a swoopy DS. Perhaps it's that Saxo VTS you once cheekily handbrake–turned in an empty car park, or the BX your slightly wacky relatives used to run around in. The fact you can probably recall at least one means Citroens are memorable – imagine if I'd asked you to name your favourite Kia instead. Struggling a bit?

Yet the legacy of those great cars is a manufacturer that's forever trying to overcome a bit of an identity crisis – which is why for every wonderfully weird Xantia there's usually a crushingly boring Xsara that almost seems to say "Sorry, we got a bit carried away earlier".

Take the C4. I loved the original, with its steering wheel boss that just floated in the upright position no matter which way you turned and the Honda CRX–esque proportions and sharp snout of the three–door model, but I can't even remember what the current model looks like.

Which is probably why the spin–off appears to have wheels stolen from the set of Space 1999 and two giant Dairy Milks glued to its sides. The C4 Cactus is wilfully weird.

There is a genuine reason for it having those squishy, moulded blobs – park up in a tight space at the supermarket and you won't return to find a Range Rover Evoque's door has left a dent in yours. It also looks great despite the bonkers detailing, packs a phenomenal amount of legroom and headroom into a small(ish) space and it's easy to drive.

The interior is as wonderfully avant–garde as the exterior – particularly the way the glovebox has been made to look like a trendy briefcase. I'm not so keen on its other trendy feature – the decision to operate every control through an iPad–esque screen.

It might not be my favourite Citroen, but it's a car you can't forget in a hurry.

David Simister is news editor of Classic Car Weekly

New Audi unveiled for 21st anniversary

AUDI has unveiled a new version of its biggest saloon to mark the A8's 21st anniversary.

The A8 Edition 21 – just 121 of which are being made for the UK market – costs £72,525 and includes reshaped front and rear bumpers and more pronounced side skirts.

It's available to order now, with the first cars arriving here in November.

Countryman built for businessmen

A NEW version of the Mini Countryman aimed at business users has just gone on sale.

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2005 (55) BMW 1 SERIES 2.0 120i SPORT 5-DR, grey, sports seats, FSH, 2 keys, great drive!	**£4,995**
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2008 (58) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6i LIFE MPV, silver, 79k, A/C, 7 seater, great family car!!!	**£3,495**
2007 (57) SKODA ROOMSTER 1.2 12v 1 5-dr, blue, 49k, full Main Dealer history, low insurance, fantastic economy	**£3,495**
2005 (05) BMW 320i SE SALOON 4-dr, in Bright Red with Cream leather, s/history, climate. Beautiful Car!!!	**£3,495**
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2004 (04) MINI 1.6 COOPER 3-dr, in Gold, leather, PAS, alloys, service history, chilli pk	**£2,995**
2008 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2i 16v SXi 3-DR, met black, 87k, low insurance	**£2,795**
2004 (04) AUDI A3 1.6 SE 3-DR, red, FSH, leather, alloys	**£2,495**
2007 (07) FIAT PUNTO 1.4 SPORTING 16V 3-DR, blue, 72k, alloys, sports interior, low insurance, bluetooth	**£2,495**
2005 (05) SAAB 9-3 1.9 TID LINEAR SPORT 4-dr, Diesel, in grey, superb MPG, A/C, CD	**£2,495**
2004 (54) AUDI A4 2.9 TDI AVANT DIESEL, met blue, recent cambelt	**£2,495**
2008 (58) FORD KA FINALE EDITION, one of only 300 made, white	**£2,295**
2007 (57) FORD FOCUS 1.4 LX 3-DR, silver, PAS, low insurance, 2 x keys, excellent	**£2,195**
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2006 (06) RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE 5-dr, Diesel, low tax/insurance, grey, 60+MPG, s/history	**£1,995**
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2002 (52) LANDROVER FREELANDER 1.8 ES STATIONWAGON 5-dr, blue, full two tone leather, alloys, s/steps	**£1,650**
1998 (S) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 16v BREEZE 3-dr, silver, only 18k miles, PAS, DRIVES LIKE NEW!!!	**£995**

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10 FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.4 (5 SPEED) 5-dr, in met blue, PAS, c/locking, ABS, CD, 38,000 miles **£3,695**

10 BMW 520D SE TOURING AUTO, met black, leather trim, sat nav, climate, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, ABS, service history, high miles, alloys **£7,995**

07 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA CLUB 1.6 (5 Speed) in met silver, PAS, e/windows, ABS, A/C, 54,000 miles, 7 seater **£2,995**

07 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 SRI 5-dr, met black, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, ABS, A/C, alloys, 77k, CD **£2,695**

05 PEUGEOT 206 CONVERTIBLE, met blue, grey leather, PAS, e/windows, ABS, climate, alloys, CD, service history, 68k miles. **£2,695**

04 CHRYSLER VOYAGER LX V6 AUTO, leather, DVDs, alloys, e/sliding doors, A/C, e/windows, c/locking **£1,995**

V LANDROVER FREELANDER 1.8 HARDBACK 2-dr, in red, PAS, e/windows, alloys, detachable top **£1,695**

59 NISSAN NAVARA TEKNA 2.5 DCI MANUAL (6 Speed) met blue, leather trim, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, climate, ABS. Alloys, rear top, service history, electric heated seats **£7,995**

56 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S 3-dr DIESEL (5 Speed), in black, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, service history **£2,495**

55 CHEVROLET TACUMA 1.6 SX, met blue, PAS, e/windows, remote locking, ABS, CD, A/C, 56k **£1,295**

05 NISSAN MICRA 1.2 S 3-dr, in met blue, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, CD, 1 owner **£1,595**

04 MINI ONE 1.6 (5 Speed) met blue, e/windows, PAS, c/locking, ABS, CD, alloys **£2,495**

04 SUZUKI ALTO GL 1.1 AUTO, silver, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, service history **£1,295**

53 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.6 (5 Speed) silver, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, A/C, alloys, CD **£1,495**

03 RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 (5 Speed) met red, ½ leather, climate, alloys, e/windows, c/locking, CD **£1,495**

03 FORD FUSION 2 1.4 (5 Speed) met black, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, A/C, ABS, 59,000 miles only **£1,695**

52 FORD FOCUS 1.6 GHIA (5 SPEED) leather, CD, ABS **£1,095**

02 NISSAN ALMERA TINO S 1.8 (5 Speed) met blue, PAS, c/locking, CD, alloys, ABS **£995**

W RENAULT KANGOO MULTI VAN 1400cc (5 Speed) PAS, c/locking, Stereo, met blue, clean van! **£795**

51 FORD MONDEO 1.8 ZETEC, met black, PAS, e/windows .. **£895**

V BMW 520i SE, met blue, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, alloy . **£895**

X RENAULT CLIO 1.1 3-dr (5 Speed) met silver, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, CD, low insurance **£895**

P.P MERCEDES-BENZ SLK 230K CONVERTIBLE AUTO, met blue, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, A/C, alloys, low mileage **£3,695**

02 MERCEDES CLK COUPE 230 in met silver, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, leather, 1 owner, FSH, alloys **£2,295**

51 MERCEDES-BENZ C180 AUTO in met silver, PAS, A/C, e/windows, remote locking, alloys, pan roof **£2,195**

V VW GOLF V5 2.3 (5 SPEED) met silver, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, 18" alloys, 150bhp **£1,895**

DIESELS

56 SAAB 9-3 1.9 TDI, met blue, 1/2 leather, PAS, e/windows, climate, alloys, service history **£2,695**

54 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE 1.9 DIESEL (6 SPEED) met blue, PAS, A/C, e/windows, r/locking, alloys **£1,995**

05 SKODA OCTAVIA 1.9 TDI, in white, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, CD player, high miles **£1,495**

53 RENAULT MEGANE EXPRESSION 1.5 DCI 5-dr (5 Speed) in red, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, A/C, ABS, £30 Road Tax **£1,595**

54 HYUNDAI ELANTRA DIESEL 2.0 HATCHBACK, in met silver, leather, PAS, e/windows, c/locking **£1,395**

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FInance Deposit Allowance	£0	Interest Rate (Fixed)	2.84%
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FInance Deposit Allowance	£500	Interest Rate (Fixed)	2.84%
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FInance Deposit Allowance	£650	Interest Rate (Fixed)	2.84%
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- Priv Glass
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- 1 Owner
- Air Con
- CD Player

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- Air Con
- CD Player

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11 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec

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- 45000 Miles

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10 Toyota Avensis 2.0 Diesel Tr 4 Dr

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- 1 Owner
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- Alloys
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62 VW Golf 1.6 TDI Match 5Dr

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- CD Player
- Air Con

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58 Mercedes C200 CDI Sport 5 Dr

- 63000
- FSH
- Alloys
- CD Player

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- FSH
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• 11 REG •

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• 12 REG •

Honda Jazz 1.4 i VTEC Si 5dr Presented in White Orchid, Black cloth interior, 16" Diamond Cut Alloys, Privacy Glass, 35714 a rare example of this fantastic marque.

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• 62 REG •

Mazda6 2.2 D Sport Tourer, Black Mica, Black 1/2 Leather interior, spec includes, 18" Alloys, Bose Music, Keyless entry & Start, Xenon head lights, Full Mazda History 19854 miles

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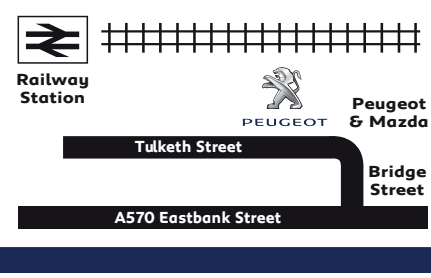

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H	**NISMO 300 ZX 3.2 TWIN TURBO,** 440 bhp, FSH, black, 70k	£9995	
60	**FORD FIESTA 1.4 AUTO,** 25k, 1 owner, FSH, met blue	SOLD	
62	**SMART FORTWO, 1.0 PETROL,** 5000 miles, 1 owner, FSH, white	£5995	£128
61	**TOYOTA AYGO GO! 1.0 PETROL,** FDSH, 37k, 1 owner, grey	SOLD	
59	**MITSUBISHI COLT 1.3 AUTO PETROL,** 25k, black	£3995	£102
04	**FORD MONDEO 2.0 DIESEL AUTO,** 61k , dealer service history	£2495	
Y	**HONDA CIVIC 1.6,** FSH, silver, 86k	£1995	
12	**KIA RIO 1.4 PETROL 5-DR,** 33k, red, 1 owner, FSH, 3 year Kia warranty	£6995	£148
60	**VW POLO 1.2 PETROL,** in black, excellent condition, 12 mths MOT, 19k	£6795	£144
62	**FIAT 500 1.2 3-DR,** metallic pink, 54k, FSH	£5995	£128
09	**FIAT 500, 1.2 PETROL, 3DR,** 29k, 1 prev owner, 2 keys, FSH, white	£5995	£128
61	**HYUNDAI IIO 1.2 PETROL,** FDSH, 6K only, 1 owner, silver	£5195	£111
W	**MGF 1.8 PETROL (75th Anniversary Ltd Edition),** 70k, FSH	£5495	
59	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4,** 22k miles, silver, 1 owner, FDSH	£4995	£107
11	**CITROEN C1 1.0 VTR PLUS,** silver, 36k, 2 keys, FSH	£4595	£94
10	**CITROEN C1 1.0 VTR PLUS,** silver, 39k	£4595	£94
10	**HYUNDAI i10 1.2 PETROL,** 39k, black, 1 lady owner	£4495	£93
11	**FIAT PANDA 1.2 PETROL,** 1 owner, 25k, FSH, in light blue	£4295	£90
59	**SUZUKI SWIFT 1.3 GL,** 30k, silver, FSH	£3995	£102
07	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI 3-DR PETROL,** 47k, red, mint	£3895	£101
57	**NISSAN NOTE 5-DR,** in gold, 41K, FSH	£3995	£102
07	**VW FOX 1.2 PETROL,** 1 previous owner, 59k	£2995	£65
56	**VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.3 DIESEL,** 1 owner, FSH, 56k	£2995	£65
54	**VW GOLF 1.9 TDI DIESEL 5-DR,** grey, alloys, s/history	£2995	
05	**HONDA JAZZ 1.2 PETROL,** 74k, 1 previous owner, low tax	£2695	
56	**KIA PICANTO 1.0 PETROL 5-DR,** black, 57k, low insurance	£1995	£50
05	**FIAT PUNTO 1.2 PETROL,** 67K, Blue, C&M service history	£1500	
04	**FORD KA 1.3,** in red, 17K, 1 owner, mint!	£1495	

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62/13 FORD FIESTA 1.0 ZETEC S 125PS, midnight sky, 30,200 miles **£9,495**
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63/13 FORD S-MAX 2.0 TITANIUM TDCI, panther black, 20,000 miles..... **£17,495**

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13/13 FORD GALAXY 2.0 TITANIUM 140 TDCI, Panther Black, 44,000 miles..... **£15,495**

14/14 FORD KUGA 2.0 TITANIUM AWD TDCI, sterling grey, 15,000 miles **£18,995**

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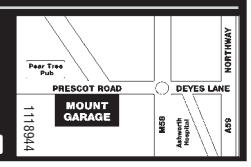

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Burscough boosted by win over Man United team

BURSCOUGH FC's pre–season campaign received a massive boost when in front of a large crowd they beat Manchester United under–21s 2–1.

The opening exchanges were dominated by a strong United team and it was no surprise when, following some neat build–up play, Ashley Fletcher put the visitors ahead after 13 minutes.

Burscough, however, were not overawed by their illustrious visitors and in the 28th minute their efforts were rewarded as Anthony Brown grabbed the equaliser.

And if that delighted the local fans, they were ecstatic three minutes before half–time when Liam Caddick prodded the ball over the line to put the home team in front.

Despite strong United pressure in the second half, Burscough proved resilient and were unlucky not to make it three one when John Connolly's header hit the crossbar.

This match also marked the last time a United team wore the famous Nike kit following their new record–breaking deal with Addidas and after the game the visitors' kit man kindly donated the no. 5 and 10 shirts, along with a warm–up jumper top and a short–sleeve warm–up shirt to be auctioned off to raise money for Burscough FC.

This is a rare opportunity to acquire a piece of sporting history and Burscough FC would like to thank United for their generous gesture.

Action from the Burscough FC–Manchester United under–21s game. Photo by Karen Morris

Skem denied victory by late equaliser

Skelmersdale United 1
AFC Fylde 1

By Neil Leatherbarrow

A GOAL eight minutes from time denied Skem a deserved win against a team that last season came extremely close to securing a place in the National League (Conference) Premier Division.

Leading thanks to a spectacular strike from Alan Burton, United had at least as much of the play and created at least as many chances in an end–to–end encounter that saw nobody going home before the final whistle.

After an enterprising opening by both sides Skelmersdale struck in the 34th minute, taking a merited lead with a ferocious Burton shot from 20 yards straight into the top corner.

The goal seemed to wake Fylde up and they went were denied by the woodwork while two further attempts were correctly wiped out for offside.

Fylde were carrying the game to Skem now but in the 67th minute there was mayhem in the visitors' defence as three times in the space of 20 seconds they were saved by their goalkeeper.

It took a former Skem player to equalise for Fylde when Dion Charles, on loan at United last season, unleashed a low shot that caught a defender's boot and went into the net in the 82nd minute.

Both teams had opportunities in the latter stages, but it was honours even at the end.

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Ince return buoys boss Lawson

ONE of the biggest cheers at Skelmersdale United's Stormy Corner ground on Saturday was reserved for the return of popular left–sided player Tom Ince, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

A major influence on the rise of Tommy Lawson's team in the early stages of last season, he suffered a bad knee injury in the game at Stamford at the end of October and it's fair to say he was badly missed by Skem.

Tom has undergone a couple of operations in the interim and has been hit by a number of disappointments in terms of delays in his return.

Tommy Lawson said: "It was especially good to see Tom taking to the field, he is still some distance from being 100 per cent fit but Saturday was a big step back on the road to recovery. Depending on how his knee reacts to the 20 minutes or so that he played I hope he can now go into full training again."

Meanwhile, chairman Paul Griffiths sent out a message to the people of Skelmersdale this week too. He said: "We have frozen season tickets prices at last season's level and although we've had a good response recently from local businesses there are still plenty of sponsorships available at the football club. For details of either phone 07958 248555."

Skem are away for the next two Saturdays. On August 8 they travel to Prestatyn Town in the last of the pre–season games before the real thing starts at Ilkeston on August 15 (more in next week's Champion). First home game is on Tuesday, August 18 when Workington travel down for a 7.45pm kick–off.

Tom Ince

Win takes Ormskirk to within five points of Premier top spot

HEAVY showers caused havoc to our local sides last weekend, with many left to try and engineer some kind of result in the short space of time left in the latter part of the day, *writes Glenn Wallworth.*

Ormskirk now sit just five points off the top of the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition Premier Division after a 4 wicket win at Birkenhead Park, the hosts were well set on 89–2 before Dane Currency 7–32 and Simon Kerrigan 3–50 managed to spin them out for 120. In reply John Armstrong (38) and an unbeaten 32 from Gary Knight helped Ormskirk to 123–6 to seal the win.

Ormskirk made it a double winning weekend on Sunday when they overcame Egerton and Netherfield in the NatWest Club T20 North West Area Finals day at Brook Lane. They now play host to holders Chester Broughton Hall on Sunday, August 16 for a place in finals day at the SWALEC Stadium in Cardiff on Tuesday, September 1.

Third placed Northern powered their way to 190–3 dec in just under 30 overs at home against Highfield, thanks in the main to 83 off 74 balls from Stephen Lucas and 44 from 22 balls from Ian Carroll. In reply Tom Sephton weighed in with 7–55 to help dismiss the visitors for 178 and seal a narrow 12 run victory.

Southport & Birkdale climbed away from the relegation zone with a convincing 133 run home win over Wallasey, where the highlight of the hosts 226–6 dec was undoubtedly a chanceless 148 run 4th wicket partnership between maiden century maker Josh Bohannon (113 inc 15x4's) and Chris Brownlow (73) who both hit their highest scores for the club. In reply opening bowler Andy Warhurst took his first wickets for the first team this season with 5–37 and Scott Lees helped himself to 3–35 as the visitors were dismantled for 93.

Formby were beaten by 18 runs at home against Bootle, after the visitors chose to bat and thanks to Craig Prince (40), David Snellgrove (30) and Scott Butterworth (29) put a total of 165 up on the board, with Charlie Gallagher 6–45 and Jack Vale 3–29 the pick of the bowlers. In reply, Ian Cockbain (63), Luke Tinsley (25) and Dane Williams (20) were let down by the rest of the batsmen as they were eventually bowled out for 147, with Scott Butterworth the pick of the bowlers with 3–21.

This weekend's local LDCC Premier League fixtures: Bootle v Northern, Lytham v Formby, Ormskirk v New Brighton, Southport & Birkdale v Birkenhead Park.

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